

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

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OD&E-0737-85

DATE

14 June 1985

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

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FORM
1-79610 USE PREVIOUS
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ODE-0737-85

18 JUN 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

FROM: Robert J. Kohler
Director of Development and Engineering

SUBJECT: CIA Information Handling Data Flow Model

1. As you are aware, I feel very strongly about applying a systems approach to both large and small development efforts, and that we should use this approach to ensure that CIA information systems development efforts will result in well integrated, smoothly functioning elements. Using these tools to address Agency information systems activities and plans, would be a very ambitious task because of the complex nature of our automated information handling processes. This inherent complexity is the very reason that a strong systems engineering approach should be applied.

2. The first step in applying this approach is to acquire a basic understanding of the present information handling processes within the CIA. To accomplish this objective, I propose that the Agency undertake an activity to define the current information flow and processing functions. The result of this effort would be the creation of a "model" of the flow of information within the Agency (Washington, D.C. area only). This paper model would then be translated into a software model of that information flow.

3. I believe that this characterization of the current CIA information flow would have several important benefits. First, it would be the starting point for a complete system engineering undertaking for the acquisition of future Agency information handling upgrades. Second, this model could be analyzed to determine how requirements are being met today and the effect of near- and far-term growth plans. Also, potential performance shortfalls could be identified and reported to the ISB. Third, even during periods of relatively slow changes to the overall system architecture, the model could be used as a decisionmaking tool to analyze changing user requirements and their impact on Agency resources.

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4. I would approach this effort by forming a dedicated system engineering team under the control of the ISB. I would recommend that OD&E be the implementing organization, with a senior experienced representative from each Directorate detailed to OD&E. A systems integration contractor would be employed to head up a multi-contractor team. A two-phased effort would be undertaken: Phase I would produce a system description and characterization, and Phase II would develop the model from a detail characterization of the information flow. This is an ambitious undertaking, but with firm direction and good cooperation from Agency managers, the study should produce useful results in one year.

5. I would welcome more detailed discussions on this proposal, including a briefing to you and/or the ISB.

STAT



Robert J. Kohler

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